AUG. 12. 2004 4:49PM BST&Z - CM

Appl. No. 09/334,693 Amdt. dated 08/12/2004 Roply to Office action of 05/12/2004

## Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## Listing of Claims:

1.-44. (Cancelled)

45. (New):

A method for synchronizing a local clock generating circuit for a first of a plurality of components of a distributed system, the method comprising:

- maintaining a locked state when a predefined number of local clock cycles generated by
  the local clock generating circuit is observed between successive occurrences of a
  global synchronization signal provided to each of the plurality of components of the
  distributed system;
- entering a short state from the locked state when one less than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal;
- entering the locked state from the short state when one more than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal;
- entering an alarm state from the short state when one less than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal;

Docket No: 81862.P116

Page 2 of 17

Appl. No. 09/334,693 Amdt. dated 08/12/2004 Reply to Office action of 05/12/2004

entering a long state from the locked state when one more than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal;

entering the locked state from the long state when one less than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal; and

entering the alarm state from the long state when one more than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal.

46. (New):

The method of claim 45 further comprising observing the predefined number of local clock cycles between a second predefined number of successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal and then entering the locked state.

47. (New):

The method of claim 45 further comprising generating local control signals for the first of the plurality of components at time instants corresponding to the predefined number of local clock cycles.

48. (New):

The method of claim 45 further comprising entering the alarm state from the locked state when two more than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal and entering the alarm state from Docket No: 81862.P116

Page 3 of 17

JAH/phs

NO. 2886 P. 8-----

AUG. 12. 2004 4:49PM BST&Z - CM

Appl. No. 09/334,693 Amdt. dated 08/12/2004

Amdt. dated 08/12/2004 Reply to Office action of 05/12/2004

> the looked state when two less than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal.

49. (New):

The method of claim 48 further comprising observing the predefined number of local clock cycles between a second predefined number of successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal and then entering the locked state from the alarm state.

50. (New):

The method of claim 48 further comprising suspending generation of local control signals for the first of the plurality of components when in the alarm state.

51. (New):

A local clock generating circuit for a first of a plurality of components of a distributed system, the local clock generating circuit comprising a state machine to perform operations comprising:

maintaining a locked state when a predefined number of local clock cycles generated by

the local clock generating circuit is observed between successive occurrences of a

global synchronization signal provided to each of the plurality of components of the

distributed system;

entering a short state from the locked state when one less than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal;

Docket No: 81862.P116

Page 4 of 17

AUG. 12. 2004 4:50PM BST&Z - CM

Appl. No. 09/334,693 Amdt. dated 08/12/2004 Reply to Office action of 05/12/2004

entering the looked state from the short state when one more than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal;

entering an alarm state from the short state when one less than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal;

entering a long state from the locked state when one more than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal;

entering the locked state from the long state when one less than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal; and

entering the alarm state from the long state when one more than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal.

## 52. (New):

The local clock generating circuit of claim 51 wherein the state machine is further to perform operations comprising observing the predefined number of local clock cycles between a second predefined number of successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal and then entering the locked state.

Docket No: 81862.P116

Page 5 of 17

JAH/nhs

---NO. 2886---P. 10------

AUG. 12. 2004 4:50PM BST&Z - CM

Appl. No. 09/334,693 Amdt. dated 08/12/2004

Reply to Office action of 05/12/2004

53. (New):

The local clock generating circuit of claim 51 further comprising a local control signal generator coupled to the state machine that generates local control signals at time instants corresponding to the predefined number of local clock cycles.

54. (New):

The local clock generating circuit of claim 51 wherein the state machine is further to perform operations comprising entering the alarm state from the locked state when two more than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal and entering the alarm state from the locked state when two less than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal.

55. (New):

The local clock generating circuit of claim 54 wherein the state machine is further to perform operations comprising observing the predefined number of local clock cycles between a second predefined number of successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal and then entering the locked state from the alarm state.

56. (New):

The local clock generating circuit of claim 54 wherein the local control signal generator suspends generation of local control signals for the first of the plurality of components when the state machine is in the alarm state.

Docket No: 81862.P116

Page 6 of 17

NO. 2886 P. 11

AUG. 12. 2004 4:50PM BST&Z - CM

Appl. No. 09/334,693 Amdt. dated 08/12/2004

Reply to Office action of 05/12/2004

57. (New):

A computer readable medium containing executable instructions which, when executed in a processing system, causes the processing system to perform a method comprising:

- maintaining a locked state when a predefined number of local clock cycles generated by
  the local clock generating circuit is observed between successive occurrences of a
  global synchronization signal provided to each of the plurality of components of the
  distributed system;
- entering a short state from the locked state when one less than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal;
- entering the locked state from the short state when one more than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal;
- entering an alarm state from the short state when one less than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal;
- entering a long state from the locked state when one more than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal;

--- NO. 2886 P. 12

AUG. 12. 2004 4:50PM BST&Z - CM

Appl. No. 09/334,693 Amdt. dated 08/12/2004

Amdt. dated 08/12/2004 Reply to Office action of 05/12/2004

entering the locked state from the long state when one less than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal; and

entering the alarm state from the long state when one more than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal.

58. (New):

The computer readable medium of claim 57 causes the processing system to perform a method further comprising observing the predefined number of local clock cycles between a second predefined number of successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal and then entering the locked state.

59. (New):

The computer readable medium of claim 57 further comprising generating local control signals for the first of the plurality of components at time instants corresponding to the predefined number of local clock cycles.

60. (New):

The computer readable medium of claim 57 further comprising entering the alarm state from the locked state when two more than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal and entering the alarm state from the locked state when two less than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal.

Docket No: 81862.P116

Page 8 of 17

NO. 2886 P. 13 ----

AUG. 12. 2004 4:51PM 8ST&Z - CM

Appl, No. 09/334,693 Aradt. dated 08/12/2004 Reply to Office action of 05/12/2004

61, (New):

The computer readable medium of claim 60 further comprising observing the predefined number of local clock cycles between a second predefined number of successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal and then entering the locked state from the alarm state.

62. (New):

The computer readable medium of claim 60 further comprising suspending generation of local control signals for the first of the plurality of components when in the alarm state.

63. (New):

A local clock generating circuit for a first of a plurality of components of a distributed system, the local clock generating circuit comprising:

- means for maintaining a locked state when a predefined number of local clock cycles generated by the local clock generating circuit is observed between successive occurrences of a global synchronization signal provided to each of the plurality of components of the distributed system;
- means for entering a short state from the locked state when one less than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal;
- means for entering the locked state from the short state when one more than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal:

Docket No: 81862.P116

AUG. 12. 2004 4:51PM BST&Z - CM

Appl. No. 09/334,693

Arndt, dated 08/12/2004 Reply to Office action of 05/12/2004

means for entering an alarm state from the short state when one less than the predefined
number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the

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global synchronization signal;

means for entering a long state from the locked state when one more than the predefined

number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the

global synchronization signal;

means for entering the locked state from the long state when one less than the predefined

number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the

global synchronization signal; and

means for entering the alarm state from the long state when one more than the predefined

number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the

global synchronization signal.

64. (New):

The local clock generating circuit of claim 63 further comprising means for observing the

predefined number of local clock cycles between a second predefined number of successive

occurrences of the global synchronization signal and then entering the locked state.

65. (New):

The local clock generating circuit of claim 63 further comprising means for generating

local control signals for the first of the plurality of components at time instants corresponding

to the predefined number of local clock cycles.

Docket No: 81862.P116

Page 10 of 17

-----NO. 2886---P. 15- -----

AUG. 12. 2004 4:51PM BST&Z - CM

Appl. No. 09/334,693

Amdt. dated 08/12/2004 Reply to Office action of 05/12/2004

66. (New):

The local clock generating circuit of claim 63 further comprising means for entering the alarm state from the locked state when two more than the predefined number of local clock

cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal and

means for entering the alarm state from the locked state when two less than the predefined

number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global

synchronization signal.

67. (New):

The local clock generating circuit of claim 66 further comprising means for observing the

predefined number of local clock cycles between a second predefined number of successive

occurrences of the global synchronization signal and then entering the locked state from the

alarm state.

68. (New):

The local clock generating circuit of claim 66 further comprising means for suspending

generation of local control signals for the first of the plurality of components when in the

alarm state.

69. (New):

A distributed system having a plurality of components in which each of the plurality of

components includes a local clock generating circuit with a state machine to perform

operations comprising:

Docket No: 81862.P116

Page 11 of 17

JAH/ohs

Appl. No. 09/334,693

Amdt, dated 08/12/2004 Reply to Office action of 05/12/2004

- maintaining a locked state when a predefined number of local clock cycles generated by
  the local clock generating circuit is observed between successive occurrences of a
  global synchronization signal provided to each of the plurality of components of the
  distributed system;
- entering a short state from the locked state when one less than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal;
- entering the locked state from the short state when one more than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal;
- entering an alarm state from the short state when one less than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal;
- entering a long state from the locked state when one more than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal;
- entering the locked state from the long state when one less than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal; and
- entering the alarm state from the long state when one more than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal.

Docket No: 81862.P116

Page 12 of 17

AUG. 12. 2004 4:52PM BST&Z - CM

Appl. No. 09/334,693 Amdt. dated 08/12/2004

Reply to Office action of 05/12/2004

70. (New):

The distributed system of claim 69 wherein the state machine is further to perform operations comprising observing the predefined number of local clock cycles between a second predefined number of successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal and then entering the locked state.

71. (New):

The distributed system of claim 69 further comprising a local control signal generator coupled to the state machine that generates local control signals at time instants corresponding to the predefined number of local clock cycles.

72. (New):

The distributed system of claim 69 wherein the state machine is further to perform operations comprising entering the alarm state from the locked state when two more than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal and entering the alarm state from the locked state when two less than the predefined number of local clock cycles is observed between successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal.

73. (New):

The distributed system of claim 72 wherein the state machine is further to perform operations comprising observing the predefined number of local clock cycles between a second predefined number of successive occurrences of the global synchronization signal and then entering the locked state from the alarm state.

Docket No: 81862.P116

Page 13 of 17

AUG. 12. 2004 4:52PM BST&Z - CM

Appl. No. 09/334,693 Amdt. dated 08/12/2004 Reply to Office action of 05/12/2004

74. (New):

The distributed system of claim 72 wherein the local control signal generator suspends generation of local control signals for the first of the plurality of components when the state machine is in the alarm state.